

MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government fixed the Minimum Statutory Price (SMP) of sugarcane. The sugar mills are independent entities and they are free to make payment more than the SMP. As per the available information all the thirteen sugar mills in Haryana are paying at a rate more than the SMP.

(c) and (d) The Government does not maintain profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills. Besides cane availability, the profitability or otherwise of sugar mills depends upon a variety of factors such as size, age and condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial competence etc. and would vary from mill to mill. Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes to remove their economic shortcomings and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

[Translation]

Embezzlement of Fund for Adivasis

4821. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the withdrawal of Rs. 3 lakh five thousand through fake cheques between December, 17, 1996 to January 14, 1997 is the latest link of Adivasis Department scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs. 2 crore 25 lakh between 1992 and 1996 in this Department;

(d) if so, whether the Government have initiated action to inquire into the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) It is not mentioned as to which State this Adivasis Department indicates. So, without the name of specific State/UT/District, it may not be possible to get the details.

(b) to (f) In view of the reply to part (a) does not arise.

Support Prices of Fruits/Vegetables

4822. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to fix support price of fruits and vegetables and other commodities not covered under the MSP scheme at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of funds earmarked for the current year for the fruit growing States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The Government is fixing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of all major agricultural commodities. The other commodities mainly horticultural crops like fruits, vegetables and spices which are perishable or having localised production are covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to protect the interest of the farmers from making distress sale of their produce. The MIS is undertaken on year to year basis at the specific request of a particular State Government as and when it is apprehended that price of a commodity may fall to uneconomic levels during peak arrival period. A pre-determined quantity at a price fixed by the Central Government in Consultation with the concerned State Government, is procured by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as a Central nodal agency and the agencies nominated by State Government. The losses, if any under the scheme are shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. During the year 1996-97, the MIS was implemented for onion and potato (Karnataka), Malta and Potato (Uttar Pradesh), Kinoo/Malta/Sangtara/Galgal (Himachal Pradesh) and chillies (Andhra Pradesh). The MIS for potato in U.P. continued upto 30.4.1997 and MIS for chillies in A.P. is effective till 15th May, 1997. During the current financial year, no proposal under MIS has been received from any State Government.

(d) Budget provision of Rs. 100.00 lakh has been proposed in the Central Budget for 1997-98 for reimbursement of losses, if any, for implementation of the price support/market intervention scheme. State-wise earmarking of funds is not made for these purposes.

[English]

Ban on Entry of Visitors in National Parks

4823. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHAL RAO KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to ban the entry of visitors in the National Parks, Sanctuaries and tiger reserves in the country;